

Green Revolution

Volume 3 | Issue 11

Article 17

11-1-1965

The Owner-Built Home - Chapter 2 - Volume IV - Design and Structure - Planning Systems: The Court-Garden House

Ken Kerns

Follow this and additional works at: <https://research.library.kutztown.edu/greenrevolution>

Recommended Citation

Kerns, Ken (1965) "The Owner-Built Home - Chapter 2 - Volume IV - Design and Structure - Planning Systems: The Court-Garden House," *Green Revolution*: Vol. 3 : Iss. 11 , Article 17.

Available at: <https://research.library.kutztown.edu/greenrevolution/vol3/iss11/17>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Research Commons at Kutztown University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Green Revolution by an authorized editor of Research Commons at Kutztown University. For more information, please contact czerny@kutztown.edu.

Planning Systems: The Court-Garden House

By Ken Kern

We often think that when we have completed our study of one we know all about two, because "two" is "one and one." We forget that we have still to make a study of "and."

—Eddington: *The Nature of the Physical World*

As one advances from house planning to actual building, he soon discovers that the design of a house cannot be divorced from its structural purpose. The 18th century sculptor, Horatio Greenough, recommended that man-made designs, like those found in nature, should follow the function of the structure. This "form follows function" concept implies that the actual beauty of a building is relative to the degree to which it meets the demands of its function. A home with a high degree of living efficiency is almost always esthetically pleasing.

One should not, however, confuse simple, efficient house beauty with the sort of rational purism that currently passes off as modern architecture. In some quarters we find a revolt against rational materialism in favor of more poetry and imagination in designing dwellings. Architectural schools too often foster among students an academism of ascetic impoverishment which reduces the rising young architect (in Eric Gill's terms) to a "subhuman condition of intellectual irresponsibility."

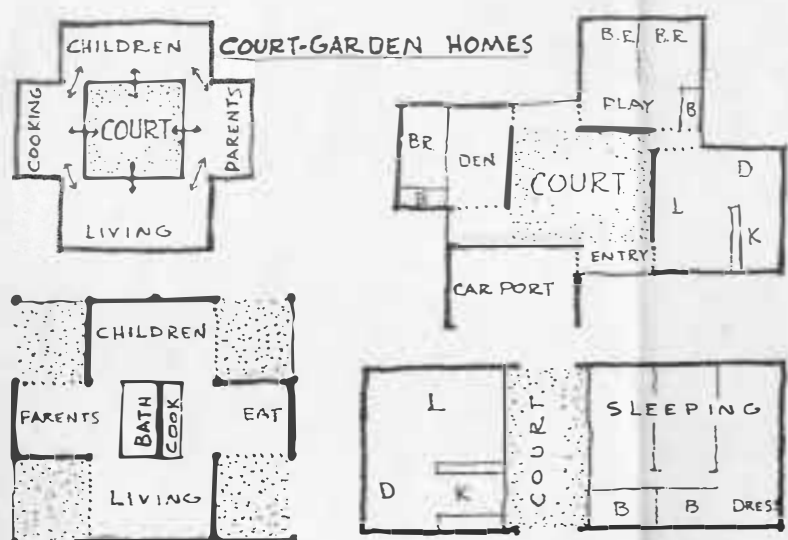
The rejection of the box house with its meaningless decoration ("applied art") was first successfully achieved by the Spanish architect, Antonio Gaudi. In 1915 Gaudi independently developed a flowing sculptural, plastic quality in building that remains unique to this day. He showed that superfluous design elements can be used if quality and measure control their integration. There is apparently a need in man for things that are not strictly necessary. In prehistoric times man painted the cavern ceilings before he knew how to build roofs.

But prior to cave dwelling, man lived in the open spaces under the sun. The cave was a protective shelter rather than a place where life was carried on. Man's craving for living in the outdoors continues to be strong. Open space is superfluous to man's shelter needs, yet inner garden-courts were built in ancient Egypt and China long before houses were fully developed as protective and sheltering privacy areas. The Greek peristyle house led to the Roman atrium and the Spanish patio.

The first court-garden house was built in the 1930's in Germany by architect Mies van de Rohe. Very little was done with this architectural form until after World War II, despite its many advantages. A court-garden house offers maximum privacy and separation of living functions. Solar exposure and cross-ventilation are improved, and the fewer wall openings and shorter spans offer major structural savings. *Being inward-directed, the court-garden house has few or no openings on its exterior sides.*

The court-garden house is merely one system of planning developed to produce a livable and economical environment. Another system, the free-form, will be discussed in the following chapter. Both systems represent thinking founded upon basic design concepts universally applicable.

Such a concept is the optimum *circulation path*, a universal constant in design and structure economy. A circulation path may be a closed-in hall or an imaginary "traffic lane." The Small Homes Council found that when the circulation path area of a house exceeds 15% of the total floor area, the total layout suffers. Besides being direct and as short as possible, a main circulation path should be centrally located and should radiate to the various parts of the house. Ideally, one should be able to go to any part of the house from the main entry, without passing through any other part.



(continued next month)

Statement of Ownership

Filed Oct. 10, 1965, for The Green Revolution, monthly, published by The School of Living, Lane's End Homestead, Brookville, Ohio; editor, Mildred J. Loomis; no bond or stockholders. 1500 copies average mailing; 1050 subscribers; 250 vended; 125 free; 75 retained.

WRITERS

N. Y. publisher wants books on all subjects, fiction, nonfiction. No fee for professional opinion. FREE: Brochures that show how your book can be published, publicized, sold; tips and article reprints on writing, publishing, contracts. Write Dept.

EXPOSITION 386 Park Ave. So., N.Y. 16
112K (11-65)

Letters, cont'd

settle the "land question" justly means losing all land to the totalitarian state. . . . Our people don't know what is going on. We don't have any reform program — nothing except to safeguard the system for the landlords. Vietnam is only the beginning. What will happen when the pot boils in South America among the great aristocratic landholdings, and those of the church? . . . Despite our complaining how hard it is for young people to get land in this country, it is far easier than almost

ADVERTISING RATES

Classified: 45¢ per line; minimum 3 lines or \$1.35; 30¢ per line for repeats of same ad.

Per inch (8 lines), \$3.20; \$2 for repeats. \$25 per inch for 12 consecutive insertions. Average line has 29 spaces.

Display: \$4.40 per col. inch; \$3 for repeats of same ad; cuts and mats acceptable.

Payment should accompany order. Repeat insertions must be paid 3 months in advance.

Write for yearly discounts, prorated on client's total year's expenditure with us.

Arthur Harvey, Advertising Mgr., Raymond, New Hampshire.

Deadline: 10th of preceding month (example, April 10 for the May issue).

Homesteads and Homesteaders

20 ACRES in Ozark County, Mo. Unimproved woodland. \$500. K. Courseille, Rt. 2, Basswood, Okeechobee, Fla. 33472. (10-65)

RETIREMENT home; 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 odd acres. Moderate climate, good location. Organic fruits and vegetables. Details on request (please enclose stamped, self-addressed envelope). Price \$6,000—above available bank mortgage. Write owner, Rt. 4, Box 72, Hendersonville, N. C. 28739. (10-65)11

Protective, cont'd

ugly—just like actual smallpox."

Con. This, it seems to me, is an excellent reason for not giving the shots to the five year olds either. When they are old enough not to scratch, and the question comes up (perhaps for army, passport, etc.), they can decide for themselves. (Shots are not necessary for passports either, although customs officials are not always aware of the fact; ask them to check the rules.) We have no intention of letting our children get shots, and if we should live in a place where they were mandatory, we would be willing to go to court about it, educate the children at home or at a private school, or move somewhere else. We feel that strongly about it.

It seems to us not worth the chance of making a child sick when there are ways of helping the body to fight off disease, and ways to nip them in the bud if they do develop. Our doctor, a nutrition specialist, has controlled many cases of children's diseases usually treated by shots.

REACTIONS TO ISSUE ON "REVOLT IN THE CITIES"

"Splendid. I'm taking it to our Women's Club tomorrow."—Mrs. Joy Valsko, Traverse City, Mich.

"An excellent statement. Send me 20 copies for our Unitarian discussion group."—Wilma Vandusseldorp, Roswell, Ga.

any place else. Our people didn't have any great institutions or classes to take over immediately after the Indians had been run off. So we are better off. Seattle has over half its homes owned by their residents. It is less in the East and in many places in Europe where hordes of people don't own anything. And this homelessness puts a terrible burden on the political system. Next time you come West, come North! — Wesley Smith, 3710 S.W. Donovan, Seattle, Wash.

Organic Compost for Cities

To the Editor:

Our city has been ordered to build a sewage plant to stop polluting the water. Could you give me any information about a sewage treatment plant in which the resulting product is sold as compost? Do you know the name of any cities with such a plant, or information of this kind?—Mrs. Joseph Crossfield, 108 Fairmount Ave., Salamanca, N. Y.

Send us names and addresses of friends who would like to see *The Green Revolution*. We will mail sample copies to them.

Soil Aids

ROCK PHOSPHATE, Colloidal Phosphate, Hybrotite (a potash rock), Granite Dust, Nitomin; also A & E Hybrotite.—Paul Degler, 51 Bethlehem Pike, Colmar, Pa. (on Rt. 309). (6-5y)

Beauty Aids

PROTECT your hands with "On Guard," the farm-tested, most effective hand cream. When all else fails, this often helps. 2 ozs., \$2, postpaid. With each order, free "Cleanse With Care" sample on request. Hedda Maar, 1472 Broadway, New York City 10036. (9-65)2

Foods and Produce

ORGANIC carrots, beets, endive, swiss chard, parsnips, other produce in season. Complete list of health foods.—PAUL BOYLAN, SHELBYVILLE, MICH. b(8-65)11

Books and Journals

FREE! National \$1 seller, *Words for Wisdom* (verses). Rush 30¢ each postage & handling to: Aura-Graphic Publications, 437 Lyons Ave., Newark 12, N. J. (11-65)11

SOMETHING DIFFERENT—Send \$1 for first issue of *The Appalachian South*. — Native mountaineers tell about their folklore, songs, history, how greed erodes mountain beauty and human dignity, leaving widespread poverty. 62 pages, 9x12. Per year, 4 issues, \$5. Ann Williams, editor, Box 4104-G, Charleston, W. Va. (ex)

OAHSPE—"The New Revelations" for the forthcoming "New Age." The new approach to founding the "Father's Kingdom on Earth." Free literature. Fabro & Nell Hanks, R. 1, Box 206, Morrow, Georgia, 30260. (7-65)12

"PEACE OF MIND THRU NATURE"—guidebook to better outdoor living, \$1. Backwoods Journal, Paradox 5, N. Y. (Journal subscription \$2 a year, sample 35c.) b(4-64)

JUNE BURN'S book, "LIVING HIGH." Joyous account of homesteading in San Juan Islands and "troubadouring" throughout the U. S. Illustrated edition with Postscript, only \$3.00 postpaid to "Green Revolutionists" (Reg. \$4.50). Wellington Books, 346 Concord Ave., Belmont, Mass. w(4-65)y

Journal of American Society to Defend Children contains an important paper, on Modern Militarism's Threat to Parental Functions, by Dr. Tom Brewer. Subscription free. — 163 18th Ave., San Francisco, Cal. 94121' j(9-65)2

THE BUG BOOK: recipes for harmless insect controls. Illustrations identify insects. Cross indexed, recipes easy to find and make at home. Plants to repel insects and wild animals. Order from Philbrick, Box 96, Wilkinsonville, Mass. \$3.65 pp. 5 copies 40% off. p(11-64)y

CALIFORNIA HOMEOWNER, a 24-page monthly, alive with sound economics, and action to return to the citizen the control of his own affairs. \$2 a year.—1571 N. Gower St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90028 c(5-65)ex

GO AHEAD AND LIVE! Even as world trends worsen, our 200 page book is the more needed. As people heed the counsel here, the causes of war are reduced and conditions for peace created. Your copy for \$4.15 from School of Living, Brookville, Ohio. (6-65)

FITNESS — The comprehensive natural health magazine which covers organic nutrition and health from the soil upwards. \$3 a year (monthly), 35c a copy. Fitness, 255 7th Ave., New York City. (Published by Newman Turner Publications, Ltd.) (5-63)ex

HEALTH AND DAIRY GOATS. Many healthful products from dairy goats: milk, cheese, fertilizer. National monthly magazine, \$2 yearly. Dairy Goat Journal, Box 836, Columbia 85, Mo. d(6-63)ex

THE GREEN REVOLUTION — 3 November, 1965

"COMMONAL: FREE WAY OF LIFE" shows natural steps for survival during strife of revolution! \$1 from: Star Box 32, Tecate, Calif. (10-65)

DR. SHELTON's "Hygienic Review." A unique Health magazine — Radical, Revolutionary, Fearless. 12 issues for \$3. P. O. Box 1277, San Antonio, Texas. h(6-63)ex

Miscellaneous

WILL REPAIR any broken plate for \$5. \$1 extra for each missing tooth. Send denture with remittance to Dr. N. S. Hanoke, 224 Illinois, St. Joseph, Mo. 64504 h(11-65)tf

KIBBUTZ for humanitarian idealists. Details 50¢. Write to Vegan Communities Movement, 7 Tudor Rd., Wheathampstead, Herts, England. v(11-65)12

Economic Independence? Learn a craft while buying a going business. My shop producing handmade handbags, belts, sandals, etc., for sale to someone I will train. Previous leather experience unnecessary but must have stability and confidence in working with hands. David Stephens, 258 S. 16, Phila., Pa. s(11-65)

HELP increase S.O.L. membership; Clip and send us cartoons or cartoon ideas (from magazines, etc.) which express humorously or satirically S.O.L.'s critical look at our society. They will be used as advertisements for *A Way Out* on college campuses. Name and date of publication must be included. All material returned on request. Send to David Stephens, 258 S. 16, Phila., Pa. s(11-65)

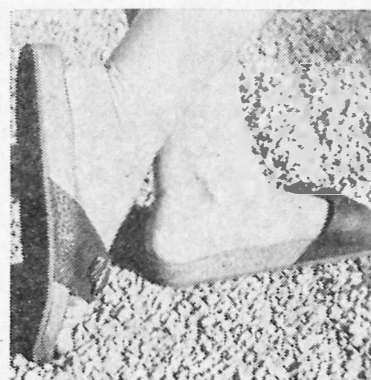
HAVE YOU THOUGHT to give *Go Ahead and Live!* for Christmas—to your young friends, to the young marrieds, to some teacher or minister for a social philosophy that can be put into practice? \$4.00 from School of Living, Brookville, Ohio. s(11-65)12

WILL EXCHANGE organically grown carrots (value 10¢ lb.) for a good make electric juicer. James Eastman, Rt. 7, Penacook, N. H. (10-65)

HAVING SOLD my suburbia pad, and severed other umbilicals, I plan on founding a Kerista-type colony in the boondocks of Florida. Wish to contact congenial bipeds: no squares, please. John W. Course, 7 S. Maple, Mt. Pleasant, Ill. 60057. (10-65)

ESPERANTO — UNESCO approved interlanguage Text, Pronunciation Record, loaned 60 days FREE. ESPERANTO, Dept. GR, Middleton, Wis. t(10-65)12

RUPTURED? PROVEN, New Home Method. No surgery, no shots, no lost time. Painless, inexpensive, details free. Wolfe Clinic, Dept. D, Box 145, Elkins, W. Va. 26241 w(9-65)11



WALK NATURALLY!

Have you about given up the hope of ever walking in comfort? Have you tried shoe after shoe in an attempt to relieve your corns, calluses, fallen arches, or just plain sore feet?

The amazing new Birkenstock Foot-Bed Sandals are your answer. Your foot fits into a bed that is molded to its shape, and is held there snugly supported. You will agree that you have never felt such comfort before. The combination of specially treated cork covered with the highest quality skin, and a durable rubber sole makes the Foot-Bed remarkably featherlight and flexible. Topped off with an attractive, soft leather strap, you have the ideal sandal for anytime, anywhere.

For best fit, send us an outline of both feet while standing, and shoe size. Smoke for men, Cognac and Smoke for women. \$12.75 postpaid. Money-back guarantee.

ANDERSSON, Threefold Farm,
Spring Valley, N. Y. 10577.